



NEWS

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

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FIVE DJJ HIGH SCHOOLS CONSOLIDATED TO BECOME NEWLY-NAMED YVONNE B. MILLER HIGH SCHOOL

Richmond, VA, Oct. 31 – To help streamline academic record-keeping as well as create a sense of unity among residents housed at the Department of Juvenile Justice’s (DJJ) five juvenile correctional centers (JCCs), Gov. Robert McDonnell has announced that the high schools on each JCC campus will be consolidated into a single high school to be named in honor of the late Yvonne B. Miller, a career educator and the first African American woman ever to be elected to the Virginia House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate.

“The consolidation of the five high schools will help make the reporting of academic performance and graduation results much easier,” noted Marla Graff Decker, Secretary of Public Safety. “The combined results will be a much more accurate representation of the achievement of our residents as a single group. It also is designed to bring a readily identifiable name to the high school attended by any DJJ resident.”

The main campus of Yvonne B. Miller High School will be located at the Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center, which houses the largest number of residents in the DJJ system. Branch campuses will be at the JCCs located in Bon Air, Culpeper, Hanover and Oak Ridge, with the programs at each school retaining the former name of the high school:

Beaumont JCC: Yvonne B. Miller High School (main campus).

Bon Air JCC: Yvonne B. Miller High School, Joseph T. Mastin Campus.

Culpeper JCC: Yvonne B. Miller High School, Cedar Mountain Campus.

Hanover JCC: Yvonne B. Miller High School, John H. Smyth Campus.

Oak Ridge JCC: Yvonne B. Miller High School, W. Hamilton Crockford Campus.

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“By assigning each campus the name previously associated with the high schools, we continue to acknowledge the valuable contributions of those for whom they are named,” Decker said.

The school is the first in Virginia to be named for Miller, a history-maker and a trailblazer who served as a strong voice and passionate advocate for the disadvantaged. She was a lifelong educator who was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1984, the first African American woman ever to achieve this distinction. Shortly thereafter, she was elected to the Virginia Senate, and in 1996 became the first woman to chair a Senate committee.

She earned her bachelor’s degree from Norfolk State University, a master’s degree at Columbia University and a Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh before becoming a faculty member at Norfolk State, where she become a professor and chairman of the Department of Early Childhood/Elementary Education. She retired in 1999.

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